(c) whether any strategy has been worked out in this respect; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Large scale employment generation is expected from the proposed interlinking of rivers, including two links, namely, Yamuna-Rajasthan and Rajasthan-Sabarmati link passing through Rajasthan, due to construction activity of the links and enhanced agricultural and industrial activities in the region. The link proposals are at feasibility stage, and no exact assessment are available at the moment.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Water conservation techniques

1792. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Earth Care Foundation is seeking help of Government to participate in their programmes on water literacy and water sensitivity by demonstrating water conservation techniques in the country;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for the campaigning of water conservation techniques in the country?

THE MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No, Sir. The Earth Care Foundation has not sought any help of the Ministry of Water Resources to participate in their programmes.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The steps taken for the campaigning of water conservation techniques in the country include mass awareness programmes; seminars and workshops; and water harvesting/conservation schemes.

New Water Policy

1793. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the new water policy gives proprietary rights over natural resources of water of private companies or multinational companies; and

(b) if so, the reasons for deviating from the policy of management of water resources by Village Panchayats and Urban Municipalities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No, Sir. The National Water Policy, 2002 does not provide for privatization of water as a resource. It envisages private sector participation for providing facilities in water resources sector.

(b) Does not arise.

Toxic pesticides in water in A.P.

1794. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES to pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Scientists of the Central Ground Water Board have found alarming levels of highly toxic pesticides in agricultural wells in some villages of Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the Board has conducted similar surveys in other Districts of Andhra Pradesh;

(c) if so, what are its findings; and

(d) the precautionary measures suggested to protect the health of the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) undertook agricultural pollution studies in parts of Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh. The ground water samples of shallow dug wells were collected from five villages namely, Balusupadu, Kambhampadu, Lingamguntla (Pedakurapadu Mandal). Yalvarthipadu (Medikonduru Mandal) and Kommerapadu (Sattenapally Mandal) during October-November, 2002. The chemical analysis of the samples revealed presence of Pesticide Multi Residue (PMR) ranging from 0.515 to 3.339 mg/l against the permissible limit of 0.001 mg/l. The CGWB has not conducted similar studies in other districts of Andhra Pradesh.